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PRESS RELEASE

Macedonia's First Cyber Classroom Opens for Business

The U.S. Government, the Macedonian Ministry of Education and Science, and the South East European University (SEEU) are working together to usher in a new era of distance learning.

As a result, students in Gostivar soon will be able to attend class at SEEU in Tetovo without leaving their own school. That's because Gostivar is now home to Macedonia's first cyber classroom, which is connected to SEEU's multimedia lab in Tetovo using a Polycom link. The Polycom link is an advanced form of video conferencing and is increasingly a standard part of the educational tool set in the US and elsewhere.

"Through this project, students in Gostivar and instructors at SEEU will be able to speak to and see each other in real time, allowing for interactive distance learning," said Tim Donnay, USAID acting Mission Director.

The cyber classroom is part of the SEEU Higher Education Linkage Program (HELP), which is implemented by Indiana University. This program concentrates on the following key areas: undergraduate programs; staff training and upgrading; improving the English language capacity of instructors; the use of technology in the classroom; and the development of cross-cutting programs that strengthen and reinforce individual faculty programs.

The project is funded by the American people, through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>